

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 NEA-14 DRC-01 /115 W

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R 201535Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3427

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CY, GR

SUBJECT: CYPRUS: FM TETENES CONDEMNS ARMS THEFT

1. FOREIGN MINISTER TETENES IN WEEKLY PRESS CONFERENCE MAY 18 CONDEMNED RECENT ARMS THEFT AT YEROSKIPION AND REGRETTED CYPRUS PRESS ACCUSATIONS AGAINST GREEK OFFICERS. ACCORDING TO SEMI-OFFICIAL ATHENS NEWS AGENCY (ANA) BULLETIN TETENES SAID: "AS I HAVE STRESSED IN THE PAST, INCIDENTS SUCH AS RECENT THEFT OF ARMS AT YEROSKIPION VILLAGE IN CYPRUS ARE IRRESPONSIBLE ACTS ABSOLUTELY CONDEMNED BY THE GREEK GOVERNMENT." ANA ADDED THAT FM TETENES ALSO EXPRESSED HIS REGRET BECAUSE "A SECTION OF THE CYPRUS PRESS, INSTEAD OF SHOWING THE SELF-RESTRAINT DEMANDED BY THE CIRCUMSTANCES, WAS CARRIED AWAY INTO GENERAL CRITICISM AND IRRESPONSIBLE ACCUSATIONS AGAINST THE GREEK OFFICERS."

2. NOTE: ALL ATHENS NEWSPAPERS REPORT TETENES REMARKS IN NEARLY SAME MANNER AS CARRIED BY ANA AND OFFICE OF UNDER SECRETARY OF PRESS AND INFORMATION TOLD EMBASSY IT HAS NO PRESS HANDOUT RE MAY 18 BRIEFING. (TETENES' REAFFIRMATION OF GOG POLICY OF CONDEMNING "INCIDENTS" IN CYPRUS PLACES YEROSKIPION THEFT IN SAME CATEGORY AS EARLIER EPISODES AND THUS TO DEGREE DOWNPLAYS THIS EVENT. FM TETENES' REGRETTING "IRRESPONSIBLE"

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CYPRUS PRESS REPORTING AGAINST NATIONAL GUARD GREEK OFFICERS

SHOULD PROBABLY BE VIEWED AS INDICATION OF GOG DETERMINATION
TO CONTINUE TO BACK UP ITS ARMY OFFICERS IN CYPRUS.)
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